

Alternative Perspectives and Global Concernes (ap-gc.net)

By Dr. Mahmoud Masaeli

The 6th International Seminar

Africa's Ethics of Care Facing COVID-19

In African culture and spiritual life, the conception of togetherness has grounded a categorical responsibility for caring for the community, addressing its needs, and safeguarding its communal essence. This responsibility is best manifested in African ethics of care in such a way that it is fundamentally different from the Western-based version of such ethics. While the western conception of ethics of care embraces the normative importance of the social relationship in accordance with the principle of individualism, African ethics of care extends profound roots in a communal perception of and practice which is essentially associated with an other-regarding character of the persons who are good and take care of the community. Here is that the salient feature of the African notion of care is revealed. In this particular ethics, the responsibility to care for the community is an obligation that forms the identity of the person comparing to the voluntary-based spirit of ethics of care in the western perspective. Accordingly, taking care of other's life is interwoven with not only a pathway to the formation and consolidation of the identity but also a sense of brotherhood and responsibility for the common good. In consequence, such a deeply rooted communal conception of care sets itself apart from the individualistic notion of right and celebrates an imperative duty and obligation which is also supported with natural spirituality and beauty of togetherness.

In responding to the urgency of the COVID-19 calamity, and moving toward the construction of the social life in the Post COVID-19 era, Africa's ethics of care must play a role which is essentially different from the response to the pandemic by the western societies. It is quite evident that Africa complies with science and new discoveries in coping with the tough and unsettled situation. However, Africa enjoys a rich cultural and spiritual character that can help its people extend beyond the scientific aspects of dealing with the situation and provide complimentary assistance for the affected and vulnerable people. The questions raised for discussion in this seminar are:

- Would ethics of care in Africa's culturally diverse perception, affect the current and scientifically standard efforts in dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic?
- What is the essence of this ethics and what implication could it have for the pandemic and the Post COVID-19 era?
- Could Africa's spiritual and cultural worldview share its achievements with the rest of the world in the time of crisis? How?
- In what way could ethics of care become a source of inspiration in fostering capacity-building, empowering vulnerable individuals, and restoring their dignity?

- Given the experience learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, what advice could these ethics provide for social protection policies related to the affected people?

This topic and exemplary questions raised will be discussed by our participants who are experts in Ethics, spirituality, politics, social activism, and politics. This seminar format webinar will be held via a Zoom teleconference and will be broadcasted live. It will also be recorded for offline social media.

We encourage our speakers to submit a short paper of 1500-2500 words to be published on the website of APGC. The collected paper will also be published in a public e-book by APGC.

Date: Friday, July 10th, 2020

Time: 13h00 East Canada and the US, 20h20 Central Europ, and 17h00 in Nigeria

Registration and Participation: Free of charge

We appreciate your donation: <https://ap-gc.net> (PayPal)

The panelists

Dr. Stanley Uche Anozie teaches Philosophy/Ethics at Indiana University Kokomo, Indiana. He is also an adjunct professor of Philosophy and Ethics at University of Indianapolis, Indiana. In 2007, he was awarded a Master's Scholarship from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and a Doctoral Fellowship from Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Canada) for 2011-2012. Anozie is Vice-President Alternative Perspectives and Global Concerns (ap-gc.net). He has published extensively, among them is the 2020 *Hans-Georg Gadamer and African Hermeneutic Philosophy*. Anozie's areas of research include Western Philosophy, African Philosophy and Religions, Africana Studies, Global and Applied Ethics, Hermeneutics, Continental Philosophy, Ethics of Patriotism, Hermeneutic of Political Belongingness, Social and Political Philosophy.



Dr. Aderemi Oladele specialises in international development policy, Africa's geopolitics, governance and public sector management. He works full time as a Senior Research Officer at the Permanent Delegation of Nigeria to UNESCO in Paris. His research interests are in Africa's geopolitics and political economy; sustainable development; results culture in international development management; and the linkages between internationally development policy, national and local development. Aderemi is the Founder and Lead Analyst at 3psmars International, a non-profit think tank focused on capacity building and knowledge management for development effectiveness, with special focus on Africa. He served as a Visiting Associate Professor of International Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, National Open University of Nigeria from 2014 to 2016.



Dr. Kanakulya Dickson is a Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Makerere University. He holds a PhD (Makerere-Uganda); Licentiate (Linköping-Sweden); MA Philosophy (Bergen-Norway) and BA (Makerere-Uganda). He has research interest in bioethics, governance philosophy, sustainability studies, social justice, philosophy of peace, and futures research. Dickson has been involved in national, regional and international collaborative research and has several published works to his credit. He's also a member of various research networks including: Alternative Perspectives on Global Concerns (APGC) group; Africa Policy Centre (APC) think tank; the European Society for Research in Ethics (Societas Ethica); and the Academic Network on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (ANLEP).



Dr. Mahmoud Masaeli is a Canadian Iranian political philosopher, ethicist, spiritualist, poet, and a global think tank leader. He has initiated and is the main force behind this series of seminars. His area of research interest include Global Ethics, Global Justice, Hermeneutics of Selfhood, Human Rights, and Human Development. He also holds a special interest in universal spirituality. Mahmoud is the Founder and Executive Director of Alternative Perspectives and Global Concerns (ap-gc.net). He serves as the Ambassador of the Parliament of the World's religions. Mahmoud has published extensively in global ethics, global development, spirituality and ethics of globality. He also a visiting professor at Ottawa University. Mahmoud chairs and speaks in this seminar. His talk in this seminar "Fundamentals of Ethics of Care in Sufi Thoughts".



Zoom information

Topic: Africa's ethics of care

Time: Jul 10, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86000667724?pwd=eW1FdDQrcmtrWmkwRzhUME90WitLdz09>

Meeting ID: 860 0066 7724

Password: 875117